

Annual Report 2021 ROCKPORT COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Community Preservation Committee had a good year in 2020. The Committee received nine applications and recommended that Town voters approve seven projects. The projects cover each of the four allowable funding sectors: Historic Preservation, Open Space, Recreation, and Affordable Housing. Rockport voters approved all seven projects at the Fall 2021 Town Meeting on September 13, 2021. The total projects funded in 2021 amount to \$476,200, as follows:

First, \$36,819 for the construction and installation of a handrail and lighting on the stairway up to the dam in Millbrook Meadow Park.

Second, \$18,638 for the restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of the American Legion Bandstand at Back Beach, including electrical safety upgrades.

Third, \$26,950 for the restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of the historic windows of the Sandy Bay Historical Society Museum Building, also known as the Sewall-Scripture House, at 40 King Street, Rockport.

Fourth, \$75,000 as a grant to ACTION, Inc. for its Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program for the creation and preservation of community housing for Rockport residents.

Fifth, \$200,000 to be placed in the Conservation Trust Fund, to be administered by the Rockport Conservation Commission, to be used for purposes consistent with the Community Preservation Act.

Sixth, \$30,000 to the Thacher Island Committee, for the creation, construction, and installation of a solar panel system to provide energy for the lighting and alarm systems of the historic Thacher Island buildings.

Seventh, \$86,431 to The First Congregational Church of Rockport for the restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of the non-religious windows in the historic “Old Sloop” church at 12 School Street, Rockport.

For the 2022 applications to be received in February 2022, CPC Treasurer Mel Michael reports that the CPC has on hand just over \$770,000. He estimates that there will be additional fresh funding in the amount of approximately \$950,000. Therefore the total available in 2022 is \$1,720,000. From this we must pay the annual debt service and administrative expenses. Also, the Committee routinely sets aside a reserve of \$500,000 for rainy days or an extraordinary project in the future. The Committee would like to entertain an application for an extraordinary project.

The Community Preservation Committee has received the good news that Harborlight Partners’ Community Housing project in Rockport will start construction in 2022. This is a 37-unit facility on Granite Street. The CPC has contributed funding in the amount of \$470,000 toward the project.

In November 2021 the CPC taped a 30-minute infomercial at the 1623 Studio in Gloucester. The infomercial can be viewed on the Committee website. It explains the workings of the CPC in detail. All potential applicants should watch the video. June Michaels hosted the event, and Treasurer Mel Michaels, Vice Chairperson Erin Battistelli, and Chairman Phil Crotty composed the panel.

It is interesting to note that since the beginning in 2003 until the end of 2019 the Rockport Community Preservation Committee has funded projects as follows: Open Space and Recreation together \$3,281,333; Historic Preservation \$3,858,205; and Community Housing \$3,194,250. The CPC also made bond payments for the Community House, for which the outstanding debt is now approximately \$100,000. The Millbrook Meadow bond was paid off.

The Community Preservation Committee members are Phil Crotty, Chairman; Erin Battistelli, Vice Chairman; Mel Michaels, Treasurer; Beth Brosnan (Housing Authority); Jim Ugone(Historical Commission), Denise Donnelly (Planning Board); Larry Neal (DPW), Evelyn Addante (Conservation Commission), and Jon Hartl. The Committee has been meeting on Zoom since July, 2020 on account of Covid 19. We encourage public attendance at our meetings.

Applications for 2022 are due not later than Monday February 7, 2022 at 4PM, preferably submitted by email to the Town Clerk's office and to the Committee Chairman. Please check the Community Preservation Committee website for the application. For further questions call the Chairman at 845-401-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip A. Crotty, Chairman